

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 USIE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 OMB-01

DRC-01 /112 W

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O R 190340Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8275

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 15081

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, KS, JA

SUBJECT: KIM TAE CHUNG CASE: REISCHAUER'S ASSESSMENT

1. PROFESSOR REISCHAUER HAS GIVEN THE CHARGE SOME OF HIS IMPRESSIONS FOLLOWING HIS VISIT TO SEOUL NOVEMBER 17 WHERE HE MET WITH KIM TAE CHUNG. ON THE BASIS OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH KIM, REISCHAUER BELIEVES THAT KIM IS DEEPLY CONCERNED FOR HIS SAFETY. REISCHAUER SAID THAT KIM IS CONVINCED THAT UNLESS HE IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY BEFORE THE ROK-JAPAN ECONOMIC MINISTERIAL MEETING TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR LATE DECEMBER THE PRESSURE ON THE ROKG TO PERMIT HIM TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY WILL NO LONGER BE PRESENT AND HE WILL NEVER BE ALLOWED FREEDOM TO TRAVEL. REISCHAUER FEELS THAT GIVEN CONTINUING STUDENT UNREST, THERE IS ALWAYS THE POSSIBILITY SO LONG AS KIM REMAINS IN KOREA THAT HE WILL BE MADE A SCAPEGOAT AND BE IMPRISONED OR WORSE. REISCHAUER SAID THAT THIS VIEW IS SHARED BY MANY MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN PRESS WHO HAVE VISITED KOREA RECENTLY.

2. REISCHAUER SAID THAT IF KIM IS ALLOWED TO LEAVE KOREA FOR THE U.S. IN THE NEAR FUTURE HE BELIEVES KIM WOULD
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BE WILLING TO AVOID MAKING ANY PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR ENGAGING

IN ANY OTHER POLITICAL ACTIVITY "AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE YEAR." HE ALSO THOUGHT THAT IF THEY ROKG WOULD PREFER, KIM WOULD BE QUITE WILLING TO TRAVEL TO THE US BY SOME INDIRECT ROUTE WHICH WOULD AVOID TRANSMITING JAPAN. (REISCHAUER MADE BOTH OF THESE POINTS IN A MEETING WITH THE JAPANESE PRESS FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM SEOUL ON NOVEMBER 17.)

3. REISCHAUER MENTIONED TO THE CHARGE THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO BE IN WASHINGTON ON NOVEMBER 19 AND HOPED TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE KIM CASE WITH SOMEONE IN THE DEPARTMENT.
SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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